

Chapter 90

UTILITIES

Article I. Water Conservation

Sec. 90-1. Water conservation plan adopted.

Sec. 90-2. Violations; penalty.

Sec. 90-3. Mandatory conservation measures.

Historical Note.

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ARTICLE I.

WATER CONSERVATION

Sec. 90-1. Water conservation plan adopted.

The city council hereby adopts a water conservation plan. (Ord. No. 312, § 2(App. A), 8-10-2006; Ord. No. 454, §2, 8-25-2011)

Sec. 90-2. Violations; penalty.

It shall be unlawful for any person, individual, corporation, or partnership to intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or negligently use water or allow or cause the use of water in violation of any provisions of the water conservation plan. Any person, individual, corporation, or partnership who shall violate any provision of this Article shall be deemed upon conviction to be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$2000, and each day such violation continues shall be a separate offense and punishable as such.(Ord. No. 312, § 2(App. A), 8-10-2006; Ord. No. 454, §2, 8-25-2011)

Sec. 90-3. Mandatory conservation measures.

- (a) The following conservation measures are mandatory year-round for all properties located within the City of Helotes when no Aquifer Management Stage has been declared by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (the “Authority”) or the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (the “District”). Properties serviced by San Antonio Water System (“SAWS”) or by private or public wells within the Authority shall be subject to Aquifer Management Stages declared by the Authority. Properties serviced by a public utility other than SAWS or private or public wells within the District shall be subject to Aquifer Management Stages declared by the District.
 - (1) Year-Round
 - a. Water waste is prohibited at all times. Allowing water to run off into a gutter, ditch, or drain or failing to repair a controllable leak is considered water waste.
 - b. Residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural Aquifer or District water users should use common sense and best practices to avoid water waste.
 - c. Landscape watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is permitted any day of the week between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.
 - d. Hand watering with a hand-held hose, drip irrigation system, watering can, or bucket is permitted any time and any day.
 - e. Washing impervious cover, such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is permitted, but should be done responsibly to avoid excessive runoff.
 - f. Non-commercial washing of vehicles and mobile equipment (e.g. washing vehicles at a residence) is permitted any time. Use of an automatic shut-off nozzle or bucket of five gallons or less is recommended to prevent water waste.
 - g. The use of commercial vehicle wash facilities is permitted any day.

- h. Vehicle wash fundraisers shall be conducted at a vehicle wash facility with recycling capability using such facility's equipment.
 - i. Newly installed irrigation systems using pop-up spray or rotor technology shall not be used in landscape areas which have both:
 - 1. dimensions less than five feet in length and/or width; and
 - 2. impervious pedestrian or vehicular traffic surfaces along two (2) or more perimeters. Where pop-up sprays and rotor heads are allowed in newly installed irrigation systems, they:
 - (i) must direct flow away from any adjacent impervious surface; and
 - (ii) shall not be placed within four (4) inches of an impervious surface.
 - j. Newly installed ice machines shall not be single pass water-cooled.
 - k. Commercial dining facilities shall:
 - 1. Utilize positive shut offs for hand-held dish-rinsing wands; and
 - 2. Utilize water flow restrictors for all garbage disposals.
 - l. Vehicle wash facilities commencing operation or replacing wash technology and:
 - 1. Using a conveyORIZED, touchless, and/or rollover in-bay technology shall reuse a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of water from previous vehicle rinses in subsequent washes; and / or
 - 2. Using reverse osmosis to produce water rinse with lower mineral content, shall incorporate the unused concentrate in subsequent vehicle washes.
 - m. Regardless of the dates of operation commencement, self-service spray wands used shall emit no more than three gallons of water per minute.
 - n. Rain sensors shall be installed and maintained on all irrigation systems equipped with automatic irrigation controllers.
 - o. All in-ground irrigation systems shall be zonal irrigation systems.
 - p. All turfgrass installed during or associated with new construction:
 - 1. Shall have summer dormancy capabilities;
 - 2. Shall have a minimum of four (4) inches of soil under the turfgrass; and
 - 3. Drainage projects, utility projects, water and power utility projects, public property maintenance or repair and those governmental activities necessary to attain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) / Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) compliance with federal or state rules and regulations implementing the Clean Water Act shall not be deemed new construction for purposes of this subsection.
 - q. The use of treated wastewater or recycled water is a defense to prosecution under these rules.
 - r. Year Round restrictions continue until there is an announcement by the Authority or District that Stage I is in effect for respective properties.
- (b) The following conservation measures will become mandatory for all properties located within the City of Helotes at each Aquifer Management Stage declared by the Authority or District for

respective properties located within the Authority or District and in the manner identified within Section 90-3(a) above.

(1) *Stage I*

- a. Water waste is prohibited at all times. Water waste includes allowing water to run off into a gutter, ditch, or drain or failing to repair a controllable leak.
- b. Reduce water consumption by any means available.
- c. All swimming pools and hot tubs must have a minimum of 25 percent of the surface area covered with evaporation screens when not in use.
- d. Watering with a hand-held hose, soaker hose, drip irrigation system, bucket, or watering can is permitted any time and any day.
- e. Watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is allowed only once a week before 10 a.m. or after 8 p.m. on your designated watering day as determined by the last digit of your street address:
 - 0 or 1 Monday
 - 2 or 3 Tuesday
 - 4 or 5 Wednesday
 - 6 or 7 Thursday
 - 8 or 9 Friday
 - No watering on weekends
- f. Washing impervious cover, such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited. Health and safety exceptions to this rule may be requested in writing from the City of Helotes City Administrator for consideration.
- g. Residential washing of vehicles or other equipment is allowed only on assigned watering days and times. A hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle or bucket of five gallons or less may be used. Water should not be allowed to run into the street.
- h. The use of commercial car wash facilities with water recycling capability is allowed any day.
- i. Landscaped areas on golf courses, driving ranges, athletic fields, and / or parks not directly "in play" are required to follow one-day-per-week watering based on address, as indicated in (b)(1)e of this Section, unless otherwise instructed by the City of Helotes City Administrator. "In play" areas may be watered Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- j. Newly-planted landscapes may qualify for a three-week exemption from the one-day-per-week watering rules. Property owners must mail, fax or e-mail their request thirty (30) days prior to installation to the City of Helotes along with their name, address of the landscape, and date of installation. If your request is approved by the City Administrator, you will receive a confirmation letter stating the duration of the permit. Over-seeding existing turf or other landscape is not considered new landscape and will not be given an exemption.
- k. No water use restrictions are imposed on political subdivisions, public utilities, and essential uses, such as firefighting, medical uses, and healthcare facilities. Water for firefighting training is strongly discouraged.

- l. Stage I restrictions continue until there is an announcement by the Authority or District that Stage I has been canceled or that Stage II is in effect for respective properties.
 - m. The use of treated wastewater or recycled water is a defense to prosecution under these rules.
- (2) *Stage II*
- a. All restrictions from Stage I.
 - b. Watering with a soaker hose, drip irrigation system, bucket, or watering can is permitted during the hours of 3 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. any day.
 - c. Watering with a hand held hose is permitted any time and any day.
 - d. Watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is allowed only once a week during the hours of 3 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on your designated watering day as determined by the last digit of your street address:
 - 0 or 1 Monday
 - 2 or 3 Tuesday
 - 4 or 5 Wednesday
 - 6 or 7 Thursday
 - 8 or 9 Friday
 - No watering on weekends
 - e. Filling of new and existing swimming pools and hot tubs is prohibited unless at least 30% of the water is obtained from a source other than Aquifer or District. In addition, refilling is permitted only if the pool has been drained for repairs.
 - f. Landscaped areas on golf courses, driving ranges, athletic fields, and / or parks not directly "in play" are required to follow one-day-per-week watering based on address, as indicated in (b)(2)d of this Section, unless otherwise instructed by the City of Helotes. "In play" areas may be watered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.
 - g. Residential washing of vehicles at a residence is permitted only on the assigned residential landscape watering day and time, as indicated in (b)(2)d of this Section. Use of commercial car washes is permitted any time and any day.
 - h. Stage II restrictions continue until there is an announcement by the Authority or District that Stage II has been canceled or that Stage III is in effect for respective properties.
 - i. No water use restrictions are imposed on political subdivisions, public utilities, and essential uses, such as firefighting, medical uses, and healthcare facilities. Water for firefighting training is strongly discouraged.
 - j. The use of treated wastewater or recycled water is a defense to prosecution under these rules.

(3) *Stage III*

- a. All restrictions from Stage II.
- b. Watering with a soaker hose, drip irrigation system, bucket, or watering can is permitted Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the hours of 3 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- c. Watering with a hand held hose is permitted any time and any day.
- d. Watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is allowed only once every other week beginning on the second Monday after Stage III has been declared by the Authority or District for respective properties during the hours of 3 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on your designated watering day as determined by the last digit of your street address:
 - 0 or 1 Monday
 - 2 or 3 Tuesday
 - 4 or 5 Wednesday
 - 6 or 7 Thursday
 - 8 or 9 Friday
 - No watering on weekends
- e. Watering newly planted landscapes allowed only with a variance from the City of Helotes City Administrator.
- f. Landscaped areas on golf courses, driving ranges, athletic fields, and / or parks not directly "in play" are allowed to water only once every other week beginning on the second Monday after Stage III has been declared by the Authority or District for respective properties during the hours of 3 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on your designated watering day as determined by the last digit of your street address:
 - 0 or 1 Monday
 - 2 or 3 Tuesday
 - 4 or 5 Wednesday
 - 6 or 7 Thursday
 - 8 or 9 Friday
 - No watering on weekends
 - "In play" areas may be watered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between the hours of 3 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- g. Residential washing of vehicles at a residence is permitted only on the assigned residential landscape watering day and time, as indicated in (b)(3)d of this Section. Use of commercial car washes is permitted any time and any day.
- h. Water runoff onto streets is prohibited.
- i. No water use restrictions are imposed on political subdivisions, public utilities, and essential uses, such as firefighting, medical uses, and healthcare facilities. Water for firefighting training is strongly discouraged.
- j. Stage III restrictions continue until there is an announcement by the Authority or District that Stage III has been cancelled or that Stage I or II is in effect for respective properties.

- k. Stage III restrictions continue if there is an announcement by the Authority or District that Stage IV is in effect for respective properties.
- l. The use of treated wastewater or recycled water is a defense to prosecution under these rules.

(Ord. No. 312, § 2(App. A), 8-10-2006; Ord. No. 454, §2, 8-25-2011)

(Historical note: Ord. No. 312, §2 (App. A), adopted August 10, 2006, repealed the former Art. I, §§ 90-31--90-33, and enacted a new Art. I as set out herein. The former Art. I pertained to similar subject matter and derived from Ord. No. 62A, §§1--3, adopted July 17, 1990.)

Chapters 91 - 93. Reserved.